

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 4. This sheet replaces the corresponding original sheet. The word "FRAE" has been amended to --FRAME--.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet including Figure 4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at pages 7-8, (paragraph [0028] of the published application) and Figure 1.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Figure 4 is hereby amended to correct a minor typographical error.

The Title and Abstract are hereby amended.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) AND § 103(a)

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0021364 to Asada et al. (hereinafter, merely "Asada").

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Asada in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,268,875 to Morio et al. (hereinafter, merely “Morio”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...frame addition processing means for continuously varying the frame rates of the image signal;

monitor image signal generation means for generating a monitor image signal using an image signal **having the display frame rate set by the frame rate conversion means and varied by the frame addition processing means...”** (emphasis added)

One distinguishing feature of claim 1 is that frame addition processing, described at paragraph [0028] of the published application and shown as element 14 in Figure 1. The frame addition processing performs frame addition processing on the image signal (DVa) to vary a frame rate of the image signal (DVa). Furthermore, the frame addition processing not only changes the number of added frames but also controls signal reading from the image pick-up element so as to vary the frame rate of the picked-up image signal (Spa), the frame rate of the image signal (DVb) can be varied continuously. Thus, by controlling the frame rate of the picked-up image signal (Spa) and the number of added frames in the frame addition processing, it is possible to generate the image signal (DVb) of a variable frame-rate picked-up image with a desired frame rate. In such a manner, the image signal (DVb), which is generated by the frame-addition-processing portion (14) is supplied to a frame rate conversion portion (21) and a record-processing portion (31) in a signal-recording-and-reproducing portion (30).

As understood by Applicant, Asada relates to a stable charge coupled device (CCD) imaging apparatus operable in multiple frame rates for displaying a signal having a low frame rate in a viewfinder (VF), and also a recorder built-in type imaging apparatus using the CCD imaging apparatus. The imaging apparatus includes a drive pulse switching circuit for multiplying a CCD drive pulse other than a CCD read pulse by $(n/2)$ (where n is an arbitrary integer) when the multi-frame rate is low, a frame memory for storing an output signal of the CCD of one frame right after pulse output. The signal in Asada is read at every $(n/2)$ frames. The frame memory repeats to read out the stored signal in one frame $(n/2)$ times. Even at a low frame rate, the apparatus displays a signal in the VF and with a properly-selected value of n , the apparatus conducts a signal having various frame rate between a camera and the recorder at a common frame rate.

Applicant submits that the disclosure of a common frame rate, as described in Asada, fails to teach or suggest the **frame addition processing means for continuously varying the frame rates of the image signal**, as recited in claim 1. Indeed, Applicant submits that the frame addition processing is not described in Asada.

While paragraph [0019] of Asada describes that the imaging apparatus includes a CCD operable in a progressive scanning, a drive pulse switching circuit for generating a CCD drive pulse at a predetermined first frame rate, a CCD driver for driving the CCD by converting the CCD drive pulse into a specified voltage, a frame memory for storing the CCD output signal, and a camera signal processing circuit for receiving an output of the frame memory and performing a specified camera process, this description does **NOT** teach or suggest Applicant's claimed frame addition processing.

Morio relates to a recording and reproducing apparatus in which a video signal is recorded by at least one rotary head in successive parallel tracks on a recording medium while the latter is being driven at a predetermined or standard speed in a direction to which said tracks are skewed, and in which the recorded video signal is reproduced by the rotary head repeatedly scanning the recording medium while the latter is selectively driven at the standard speed, as in the normal reproducing mode, or at an arbitrary speed other than such standard speed, for example, at zero speed for the still-motion reproducing mode, or at speeds less than and greater than the standard speed for the slow-motion and quick-motion reproducing modes.

Applicant submits that Morio has no bearing on the features of claim 1 and is used merely as a basis of rejection of the dependent claims.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar those above, claims 5 and 9 are also patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken

as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicant reserves the right to address such comments.

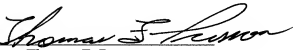
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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